

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8-14 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 11-14 are hereby added, and as claims 5 and 7 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 have been rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant hereby rewrites independent claim 1 to include the features of allowable claim 7. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 (and claims 2-6 and 8-10 dependent therefrom) is immediately allowable.

Additionally, Applicant has added new claims 11-14, which correspond to allowable claims 4, 6, 8 and 9 rewritten in independent form. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 11-14 are immediately allowable.

Claim Rejections

Applicant respectfully submits that the outstanding prior art rejections of claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 are mooted by the amendments herein. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests their corresponding withdrawal.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6 and 8-14 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-4, 6 and 8-14.

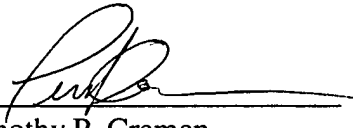
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/777,661

Attorney Docket # Q62661

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,


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